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FROM: Helsinki

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 161, November 18, 6 p.m.

PRIORITY

Legation informed that on three occasions between November 7-12 Soviet mission Helsinki told Kekkonen, Tornngren, and Eero Wuori successively that USSR prepared discuss (1) Finnish use Saima Canal; (2) partial USSR payment in international exchange for imports from Finland; (3) loan to Finland for use locally at discretion Finnish Government. Also reported Minister Gartz, now here, was especially summoned by Molotov whereupon same offer, at least in part, was communicated to him.

Kekkonen broke substance offer in interview his paper MAAKANSA this morning. Russians may have wished offer be "open secret" but questionable whether publication welcome to them.

Finnish source declares "such offer unique in history our relations Russia".

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